

REMARKS

Claims 1-57 and 69-134 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 58-68 were previously canceled and claims 69-73, 76, and 92-95 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 3-4, 44, 53-57, 69, 77, 86, 88-91, 96-97, 114, 118 and 119 have been amended. Claim 118 is the sole independent claim.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner is thanked for her indication of the allowability of claim 118. Additionally, the Examiner is thanked for her indication that claims 103-105 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In accordance with the interview with the Examiner and the undersigned of March 15, 2006, Applicants have amended independent claim 118 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection, thereby placing independent claim 118 in condition for allowance. Applicants have further amended independent claims 1, 53-57, 69, 77, 86, 89-91, 96-97, 114, and 119, such that they depend from allowable independent claim 118, thereby placing all of claims 1-57 and 69-134 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-57 and 69-134 is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-52, 56, 57 and 96-119 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the Examiner asserts that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

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As set forth above, independent claim 118 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection and each of claims 1-52, 96-117, and 119 has been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 118. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 20-28, 40-44, 46, 47, 74, 75, 83, 84, 88, 102-105, 108, 109, 114-117 and 120-134 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is moot in light of the amendments to these claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

ART REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 6, 29-34, 97, 98 and 119 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Crandall (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,563, herein Crandall). Claims 15, 16, 110 and 111 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crandall as applied to claims 1 and 97 above and further in view of Bernstein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,007,087, herein Bernstein). Claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 99-102, 106-109 and 112 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crandall as applied to claims 1 and 97 above and further in view of Fleming-Dahl (U.S. Patent No. 6,744,893, herein Fleming). Claims 18, 19, 35-37, 39, 48, 49 and 113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crandall as applied to claims 1 and 97 above and Crandall in view of Fleming as applied to

claim 14 above and further in view of Carroll et al. (*Cryptologia*, Vol. XVI, No. 1, (January 1992), herein Carroll). Claim 50 IS rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crandall as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Hardy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,018, herein Hardy). Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crandall as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Moskowitz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,889,868, herein Moskowitz). Claims 77-80, 86, 87, 96 and 114-116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleming in view of Crandall. Claims 81, 82 and 85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleming in view of Crandall and further in view of Rosenthal (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,659, herein Rosenthal). Claims 83 and 84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fleming in view of Crandall and further in view of Rosenthal as applied to claim 82 above and further in view of Crouch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,383,143, herein Crouch).

As set forth above, allowable independent claim 118 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection. Further, each of claims 1-57, 69-117, and 119-134 has been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 118, thereby placing each of claims 1-57 and 69-134 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the various art rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of all objections/rejections and allowance of claims 1-57 and 69-134 is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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